

DISPERSAL OF THE INTRODUCED PALAEARCTIC SAWFLY,
HALIDAMIA AFFINIS (FALLÉN), IN NORTH AMERICA
(HYMENOPTERA: TENTHREDINIDAE)¹

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Abstract.—The Palearctic sawfly, *Halidamia affinis* (Fallén), was introduced into North America prior to the first record from Long Island, New York in 1931. Subsequent records within the next three years from surrounding states, and later from Michigan, Wisconsin and Maryland, suggest a slow inland dispersal of *H. affinis*, or transport across the Appalachian Mountains or down the St. Lawrence River by man. Specimens collected in eastern Kansas and west-central Missouri in 1976 indicate that *H. affinis* is apparently dispersing over much of eastern North America.

Halidamia affinis (Fallén) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae: Blennocampinae) is the only known species of *Halidamia* Benson, a Palearctic genus belonging to the primarily Neotropical tribe Waldheimiini (Smith, 1969). *Halidamia affinis* is cosmopolitan in Europe (Benson, 1952) but was not collected in North America until 1931 (Smith, 1969). Ross (1951) stated that the species was introduced into New York. The first known adult collection record is Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, 4-V-1931, as given by Smith (1969). Smith mentioned that it was introduced into North America but did not discuss its dispersal.

Smith (1969) listed the records of *H. affinis* known to him at that time, among which were the following first state collection records: NEW YORK: as above; CONNECTICUT: N. Bradford, 12-V-1933, M. P. Zappe; NEW JERSEY: Haddon Heights, 29-V-1934, L. J. Bottimer; MICHIGAN: E. Lansing, 15-V-1957, R. L. Fischer; ONTARIO: Point Pelee, 4-5-VI-1961, Kelton and Brumpton; MARYLAND: Upper Marlboro, 20-IV-1963, W. R. M. Mason; and WISCONSIN: Racine Co., Rochester, and Jefferson Co., Jefferson, both 7-VI-1966, M. S. Conrad. Smith's record for Michigan is preceded by a female in the Snow Entomological Museum (University of Kansas, Lawrence) with the following data: Washtenaw Co., Saginaw Forest, 25-V-1950, E. B. Hayden. The first inland collection records occurred about 20 years following the initial date of collection. The subsequent records given by Smith (1969) are primarily concentrated into 2 areas: (a) on the Atlantic coastal plain and Long Island; and (b) in the southern Great Lakes area, primarily in Michigan. Two new records for *H. affinis* are: KANSAS: Douglas Co., Lawrence, 15-IV-1976, C. D. Michener (1 female), and MISSOURI: Jackson Co., Kansas City, 2-V-1976, H. Greenbaum (1 female) (both specimens in the personal collection of the author).

Should these records be indicative of the dispersal of *H. affinis*, then the following conclusions may be drawn:

(1) Following initial introduction into Long Island, New York, *H. affinis* dispersed within a few years to the subcoastal areas of New York and the surrounding states (New Jersey and Connecticut) where it became established.

(2) Inland dispersal of *H. affinis* occurred either by a slow migration, or transport down the St. Lawrence River via commercial shipping (Smith, personal correspondence) or across the Appalachian Mountains by man.

(3) Westward dispersal of *H. affinis* around the Great Lakes is indicated by Smith's (1969) Wisconsin records.

(4) *Halidamia affinis* has dispersed southward from the southern Great Lakes area as indicated by the Kansas and Missouri records.

Apparently this species is gradually dispersing over much of eastern North America. *Halidamia affinis* is now known to occur in North America from Connecticut south to Maryland and west to Wisconsin (Smith, 1969), and eastern Kansas.

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Footnotes

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